

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present application.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-9 and 12-15 have been canceled without prejudice and Applicant reserves the right to pursue such claims in a continuation or divisional application.

New claims 16-27 have been added. Claims 16-21 are dependent on claim 10, which has been deemed allowable. Claims 22-27 are dependent on claim 11, which has also been deemed allowable.

Support for claims 16 and 22 can be found on page 5, lines 21-24; support for claims 17 and 23 can be found on page 3, lines 25-28; support for claims 18 and 24 can be found on page 4, line 7; support for claims 19, 20, 25 and 26 can be found on page 4, line 10; and support for claims 21 and 27 can be found on page 6, lines 17-18.

No new subject matter is believed to have been added by way of these amendments.

Since claims 10 and 11 have been deemed allowable and new claims 16-27 are dependent on either claim 10 or claim 11, Applicant respectfully submits that the addition of new claims 16-27 does not necessitate a further search. Accordingly, all pending claims, namely claims 10-11 and 16-27 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-8, 9 and 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for being indefinite. Claims 1-8, 9 and 12-15 have been canceled thereby rendering moot the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blomfield-Brown (5,742,773). Claims 1-4, 6 and 12 have been canceled thereby rendering moot the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) with respect to Blomfield-Brown.

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blomfield-Brown in view of Amri et al. (5,535,199). Claim 5 has been canceled thereby rendering moot the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) with respect to Blomfield-Brown in view of Amri.

Claims 7, 8 and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Blomfield-Brown in view of Sen et al. (6,765,909). Claims 7, 8 and 13-15 have been canceled thereby rendering moot the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) with respect to Blomfield-Brown in view of Sen.

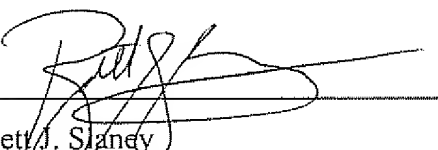
Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blomfield-Brown in view of Amri, in further view of Sen. Claim 9 has been canceled thereby rendering moot the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) with respect to Blomfield-Brown in view of Amri and Sen.

Summary

Accordingly, in light of the cancellation of claims 1-9 and 12-15, all previous rejections have been rendered moot. New claims 16-27 are dependent on allowable claims, and thus Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-11 and 16-27 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant requests early reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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